

A Rebuttal to Misleading, Defamatory, and False Testimony
of Kristine Knowlton

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In 1993, Kristine Knowlton, a prosecuting attorney for Weber County Utah, presented false testimony during a Congressional Hearing conducted under the auspices of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, which focused on “Violence Against Women.” During that hearing Knowlton defamed me with disparaging and false accusations.

I first became aware of this testimony only recently, 16 years after the fact, when *Internet Archive*, an Internet Library, published the document online. After I presented evidence pointing to the falseness of Knowlton’s testimony, *Internet Archive* agreed to publish this statement, which includes a rebuttal to Knowlton’s defamatory allegations and points to reasons why Knowlton would take prosecutorial misconduct to such an extreme as to perjure herself at a Congressional Hearing just to defame a citizen.

In 1992, I severely beat a man with my fists, causing him serious injury, and because of that, I was convicted of Aggravated Assault. Kris Knowlton was the prosecuting attorney in that trial. About a year after my conviction, Knowlton appeared at a Congressional Hearing and spun a tale composed of fact and fiction, which wrongly and unfairly impugned my integrity and my character.

In this statement I will touch upon some of her misleading characterizations and false allegations, and I will attempt to provide an acceptably accurate context in which to see events as they transpired. I will also postulate a motive for Knowlton’s false testimony and her attack upon my character.

Spousal Abuse

There was spousal abuse during my marriage, and I find it an awkward and embarrassing subject for me to address. Maybe I am making excuses, but during the first year or so of our marriage, I was the abused, not the abuser. It took me awhile before I finally hit back (not with a fist but with a slap) and when I did, it really seemed to help keep the peace. Except for that early period in our marriage, abuse was rare. I admit that toward the end of our marriage, I tried to maintain control through the use of physical force (I spanked my wife). And yes, I am embarrassed and ashamed to have resorted to corporal punishment against my spouse as a means of maintaining order.

Aggravated Assault

The beating I delivered to Paul Griffin had little if anything to do with “violence against women.”

First of all, he confronted me. I did not confront him. And although Knowlton paints Griffin as a noble hero, I disagree. In my opinion, Paul Griffin acted like a predator. I did

not ask this man to push his way into my life and cause pain and suffering to my family and me.

I think Griffin's conduct was most egregious in the encouragement and assistance he rendered to my wife in the abandonment of our children. These kids were five and eight years old and far too young to be left by their mother. If I recall correctly, it took me about five weeks before I could successfully facilitate communications between my children and their mother. I eventually found out where she lived. During that five weeks, I repeatedly attempted to persuade her through her friends to please get in touch with our children, but my wife never made contact with our kids during that time, not even telephone conversations. I think Knowlton refers to this time period when she claims that I "stalked" and "harassed" people. In my opinion, Paul Griffin was instrumental in inflicting unnecessary pain upon my family.

It is natural for an adult male human being to protect himself and his family, and Paul Griffin had plenty of opportunity to just leave me alone. When Griffin confronted me that day in 1992, I was absolutely unwilling to be pushed around. Still, I realize my reaction was uncharacteristically primitive and excessive. It was brutal and unacceptable, and I do regret it.

Contrary to what the former prosecuting attorney claims, I never threatened Griffin. However, I think that any man who interposes himself between a responsible family man and the wellbeing of his family should have enough sense to know he has entered dangerous territory, especially when small children are involved. I took my family responsibilities seriously.

I could not explain any of this during my trial. My attorney had advised me that it would be extremely unwise for me to say anything too critical about Paul Griffin because that would "re-victimize the victim" and would negatively influence the jury.

Knowlton's Most Easily Disprovable Claims

Prosecuting Attorney Kristine Knowlton explained in a Congressional Hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee that although I lacked a previous criminal record, Utah's Criminal Justice System dealt with me in an unusually harsh manner. I was convicted of Aggravated Assault, sentenced to the maximum possible punishment, and denied parole. Knowlton indicated that this unusually harsh punishment was necessary because I was such a dangerous individual, a loose cannon. She said that even during the Board of Pardons Hearing, where a normal person would do whatever it took to get paroled, I instead made numerous threats against numerous people. But the recorded transcript of that Board of Pardons Hearing clearly shows I made no such threats, and it easily proves that Knowlton's claims to the contrary are absolutely false. Evidently, Prosecuting Attorney Knowlton made all that stuff up.

The Reasons for Maximum Justice

So what was the real reason I was treated so severely by Utah's criminal justice system? I think it had a lot to do with the fact that the Prosecution, apparently unencumbered by any pesky ethical considerations, employed some extremely effective tactics which generated and kept alive an hysteria based mostly, I think, upon fabrication. Adding to that is the fact that Paul Griffin, the reputed hero whom I so rudely victimized, had some strong connections in the law enforcement community. It is interesting to note that in 1997, when I was released from state custody, Griffin was working for the FBI as a field agent in Nevada and Southern Utah.

That still does not explain why Prosecuting Attorney Knowlton took that one extra step and made defamatory and untrue allegations about me in a Congressional Hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. But I think I know the reason for that one too. I think retribution, good ol' payback, was the reason for her attack upon my character in that Congressional Hearing.

The Letter

After I found out I had been denied parole, I took the liberty of writing a letter to the Weber County Prosecutor's Office. I naively assumed they had done all the damage they could do to me. It was an angry letter, and in it, I made an unkind assessment of the Weber County Prosecutor's office and its role in society.

I suggested, for example, that the coordinated false testimony I heard from Prosecution witnesses during my trial could only have resulted from the Prosecution coaching those witnesses.

In that letter, I described abuses that the Prosecution seemed to consider standard operating procedure. I described the harm I thought professional liars in positions of power and in positions of undeserved public trust could do to our society. I offered up a picture of Utah's criminal justice system as a massively bloated, top-heavy, parasitic, and barely intelligent organism built upon pretense and intent upon perpetuating and expanding itself at the expense of everything else. And I described the Weber County Prosecutor's Office as a concentrated microcosm of that system . . . a little Bizarro world where good is bad and bad is good, lies are tools of the trade, and justice is anything but just . . . a place where the so-called good guys act in ways more criminal than most of the people they prosecute and persecute.

(Here is some historical trivia that may be pertinent: The Weber County Judge who sentenced me to prison and who then denied my appeal, Judge Michael Glassman, later resigned in disgrace after the local newspaper, *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, ran articles describing the plight of two women who had been charged with crimes and who were then mandated to appear before the judge. According to the women, the Honorable Judge Glassman insisted on an arrangement where sexual favors would be traded for lenient legal rulings. In my opinion, the fact that Glassman resigned without a fight points

to the truth of the women's accusations. However, Michael Glassman was never charged with a crime. In spite of Kris Knowlton's carefully cultivated public persona as the highly principled protector of women's rights, she never publicly condemned the judge or his behavior. Knowlton never said a peep against her colleague. During my sentencing hearing, the judgmental Judge Glassman had condemned my behavior as "heinous.")

In the letter I sent to the Weber County Prosecutor's Office, I said that for them, success is measured by the amount of damage they can do, and that within their organization the meanest misanthropes are held in the very highest esteem and will probably rise to the top like sewer scum. (This may only be coincidence, but since that time, former Weber County Prosecuting Attorney Kris Knowlton, has attained the lofty position of Assistant Attorney General for the State of Utah). I described the Weber County Prosecutor's Office as a bane upon civilization and compared its staff to a bunch of busy little parasites chomping away at the fabric of society. I said they spent so much time trampling the Constitution that they really didn't have much time to spare for serving and protecting the public.

The letter was chock full of hyperbole, and it felt good to write it, but I probably should not have sent it.

Conclusion

Kristine Knowlton, now an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Utah, made false allegations against me when she appeared as a witness at a Congressional Hearing. I believe she did so maliciously and knowingly, and in doing so, she failed the public trust. I think Knowlton's decision to bear false witness against me arose primarily out of hubris and a base desire for retribution. I think my letter to the Weber County Prosecutor's Office really got under her skin

Everything I have said in this statement is true to the best of my knowledge, except possibly for the recollected contents of the letter I sent to the Weber County Prosecutor's office almost two decades ago. That letter was essentially just a tirade filled with plenty of noise and conjecture supported by very little evidence. A family man torn from his family wrote that letter. A man who felt unjustly used by the system and who felt a need to express his disdain and disgust wrote that letter.

I do not believe that government is inherently evil. I believe that wise and effective governance backed up by wise and effective law enforcement actually expands our freedoms. Wise and effective governance is based upon good sense and an ideal called *The Rule of Law*, which tells us that the law applies to everyone and that no one is above the law. But there are the powerful and there are the powerless, and some individuals lack the principles required to handle power well. Selfish concerns and pure malice can turn our protectors into predators who prey upon us. I believe Kristine Knowlton, Assistant Attorney General for the State of Utah, has shown a pattern of little restraint in the abuse of her authority, and she therefore should never occupy a position of power or a position of public trust in the state of Utah or anywhere else.